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Murder Mystery Mystifies Prospective Students

Prospectives enjoy some time in the field

By Alex Yong
News Writer

On March 2, 2013 the Saint Joseph's College Office of Admissions and the Forensic Science Department put on a Murder Mystery Event for prospective forensic science students.

"The Murder Mystery event is to expose potential students, parents, and others to the field of forensic science," Professor Neal Haskell explained of the program. "Through demonstrations by our advanced forensic students, the attendees will learn about crime scenes, blood spatter, forensic pathology, and forensic entomology and how these fields are used to eliminate or identify suspects of murder."

Not only did the students learn about forensic science, they actually got to participate in the Murder Mystery set up by the SJC students and faculty in the Forensic Science Program.

"The participants will attempt to determine who the murderer is based upon these different disciplines," Haskell added.

Sophomore Forensic Science major Rachel King was one of the students involved in the event.



"Students were able to see how blood spatter can show the difference between being hit with a bat or a hammer," King said, "They could also learn how to set up a crime scene as well." Continuing with the theme of participation, prospective students actually got to hit mannequin heads filled with pigs' blood to study blood spatter. "Students also could see blunt force trauma first hand by hitting a skull with a hammer, as well as using larva to see the post-mortem interval of a body," King added.

Over fifty students participated in the event. It was the first time this event was hosted by the school, and Admissions Counselor

Sarah Cannady was pleased with the results, saying, "It went really well." After the event was done, the students were given t-shirts, satchels, and other Saint Joseph's College memorabilia, but this time it was packaged for them in an evidence bag, taped, dated, and initialed just as a real evidence bag would be.

Left: SJC Forensic students pose at the "crime scene" with a prospective. Below: SJC senior forensic science major Jessica Jarvis shows off a bloody hand with sophomore Rachel King. Photos courtesy of Randee Porteus.



Dr. Seuss Still Remembered Across America

SJC Education majors read to local students

By Jessica Ruschke
News Writer

Education students decided to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with the entire first grade at Rensselaer Central Primary School (RCPS). The Puma Education Association (PEA) planned a Read Across America event for the first graders as a way of getting the students excited about reading. In conjunction with the project, PEA donated books for each first grade classroom. Another program is scheduled for the week of March 18 at the Rensselaer Central Middle School (RCMS).

Read Across America Day is an annual event that coincides with Dr. Seuss's birthday and is organized by the National Education Association (NEA). Its goal is to promote literacy and help students become excited about reading.

During the first grade program, senior Music Education major Kelso Daning participated by dressing up as the Cat in the

Hat and reading to the students. Junior Elementary Education majors Austen Farney and Natalie Gouwens dressed up as Thing One and Thing Two. They also coordinated the event in conjunction with RCPS principal Mr. Andrew Jones and all of the first grade teachers. During the program, the students also received Dr. Seuss activity pages and pencils at the end of the day. The donated books should arrive early next week.

During the week of March 18, secondary education students will visit RCMS and plan activities for all students in grades six, seven, and eight. The school will also receive book donations for the school library. During the programs, students will hear book talks, get a chance to explore books of different genres, and hold discussions with their peers.

The students also have the chance to participate in a book trailer and poster contest. Students can put together a short video or create a poster to try to convince



SJC students dressed as Dr. Seuss characters pose with the children they read to that day. Photo courtesy of Austen Farney.

other students to read their favorite book. The winners will be announced at the event, and prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place.

Junior English Education major and PEA president Jessica Ruschke, sophomore English Education major Allison Stanton, and junior Math Education major Sarah Stines are planning this event in conjunction with the RCMS principal Mrs. Kelly Berenda, librarian Mrs. Melissa

Garrity, and Literacy Coach Mrs. Natalie Waling.

These projects were funded in large part with a CLASS (Community Learning Through America's Schools) Grant from the National Education Association's Student Program. Ruschke applied for the grant at the end of the fall semester, and received \$1,000 to put toward these projects. "I want to spark the students' interest in picking up a book. Hopefully these programs will help with that," said Ruschke.

New Dual Credit Courses for RCHS Students

Both teachers and students look forward to having so many opportunities to learn and teach

By MaryKate Hresil
News Writer

Recently, dual credit courses have become popular at high school's across America. This trend follows the institution of honors diplomas. Rensselaer Central High School has been involved in this, along with the help of SJC. For the last three years, Saint Joseph's College and Rensselaer Central High School (RCHS) have worked together on a dual credit program for the high school students. The class offered is SJC's Political Science 101: American Politics class. Here at SJC, Political Science Professor, Peter Watkins, teaches the class. At RCHS, Jeff Marlow teaches the class.

RCHS first approached Saint Joseph's to create the course. The then Vice-President of Academic Affairs, John Nichols, supported and helped create and implement the program. Bill Zimmer, Principal of RCHS, Dennis Riegelneegg, President of Saint Joseph's, and many others from both RCHS and SJC supported the program. The program, offered only in the fall, has had over eighty students enrolled in the course during these past three years with great results.

Peter Watkins supervises the

class taught by Marlow. When class is in session, Watkins and Marlow meet on a weekly basis, thanks to the short distance between the two schools. To keep the class as similar as possible, Marlow implements the same syllabus Watkins does here on campus. Therefore, the high school students take the same quizzes and exams, and have the same writing assignments that the college students do. Furthermore, Watkins sends memos to Marlow outlining his thoughts on each chapter of the course textbook. As far as his involvement in the actual teaching of the class, Watkins spends one class at RCHS lecturing on the First Amendment and hate speech; a class anyone who has taken POL 101 knows is interesting.

Watkins found that implementing the dual credit program has had many benefits: It allows the RCHS students to experience what Saint Joe has to offer, encouraging them to consider our school as a potential for their undergraduate degree. Also, it allows the college to further its ties with the Rensselaer community. Watkins also believes it has given him the opportunity to better his own teaching skills. On the topic, Watkins said, "I think it's always useful for a

member of faculty to step into another classroom to teach to a different audience. When I teach the students at RCHS I have to think about whether what I do (at SJC) will work (or even should be said) in the classroom at RCHS." Lastly, Watkins has found that the working relationship with Marlow has also become a good friendship.

Former RCHS student and now a Saint Joseph's Freshman English major, Katie Davisson, took the class. She said, "I found it challenging at times, but not the point where I didn't enjoy the class." She said that her favorite part was the discussions that occurred.



Faculty from both schools are excited for this new opportunity for students. Professor Peter Watkins and RCHS teacher Jeff Marlow are looking forward to helping students further their education in a timely fashion. Image courtesy of Saint Joseph's College

National Eating Disorder Awareness Comes to SJC

Students raise awareness about eating disorders

By Haley Braush
Staff Writer

For the first time, Saint Joseph's College decided to participate in National Eating Disorder Awareness week (NEDA). This year's NEDA week theme was "Everybody Knows Somebody." The spread of eating disorders nationwide has grown immensely and rapidly through the years. This week is the largest outreach and education effort on eating disorders and the goal is to make people aware of the danger of eating disorders as well as advertise a healthy body image.

The NEDA week took place February 24th to March 2nd this year. SJC's Residence Life partnered up with the Johnson Health Center to plan and organize. SJC participated by hosting different events every day of the week during this time. To help students be aware that it was NEDA week, Puma Women sat outside the cafeteria and handed out stickers at the beginning of the week. The campus counselor, Laura

Wagner, handed out information about the counseling facilities, different eating disorders, and an online screening that is free and available to everyone. Also, students were able to write notes of encouragement, which were then posted all over the café windows.

Each day of the week stood for something different. Monday was "Mirrorless Monday." Many of the campus mirrors were covered with paper that included facts about eating disorders and encouraged a healthy and positive body image. The message promoted this day was that "you are more than just your mirror image." Tuesday was "Love your Body Tuesday." Noll Hall hosted a movie night and watched "Thin," a documentary that focuses mainly on four women who suffer from anorexia and/or bulimia and their struggle for recovery. Wednesday there was a body image workshop held in the ballroom in the Halleck center sponsored by Halas Hall. Thursday night, there was a comedian and afterwards Laura

By Randee Portteus
Editor

Typically, as you frequent Observer readers know, you can pick up the latest edition of the SJC newspaper in the red boxes around campus. Recently, however, you may have also noted that copies are popping up other places – perhaps under your door, in your dorm lounge, or in the laundry room.

The Observer is trying new

ways of distributing the paper on campus. The initial plan was distributing papers to every room on campus, having the RAs in the building slide these under every door. Here we ran into some issues – the least of which was that some doors do not have space to slide a paper underneath.

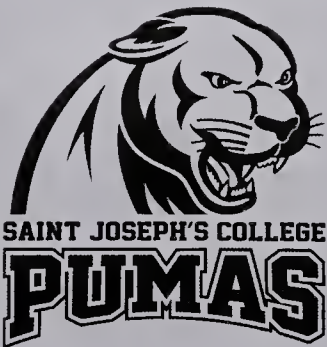
However, with this issue of The Observer, the paper will try more new distribution tactics. These include fewer copies in the dorms, but still a few placed in

lounges and laundry rooms, the Core Computer Lab, the Library, the Hub, and the Cafeteria. Our goal is to get The Observer into the hands of as many students as possible.

If you have any suggestions, please contact rpt8460@saintjoe.edu with your ideas! Your input and readership is very much appreciated by all of the staff here at The Observer.

Upcoming Puma Events

- 3/11-15 Spring Break
- 3/18 Pac All Meeting Core 119 6 PM
- 3/19 Bingo in the Courtney 9 PM
- 3/23 Puma to Puma Day
- 3/23 Poetry Slam



Wagner sat outside, again handing out information about counseling and the online screening. Friday was the final day of the NEDA week and it was "Barefaced and Beautiful." Students were encouraged to not wear make-up and to be confident in their natural skin.

Since this was the first year of participation, not as many students got involved. Attendance at each event was not as high as anticipated, but hopefully next year more students will get involved. Stephanie Brouwer said that although participation was a little low, "I think we were successful about getting the word out and it helped to have the stickers passed out." This year was just the start of a tradition that will be annual at SJC. NEDA week is a very important week

and hopefully students will get involved and will participate in the events next year! If you have any questions, you can contact

Stephanie Brouwer or Laura Wagner via email. Remember, "Everybody Knows Somebody."



Handicap Accessibility?

By Victoria Lawson
Opinion Writer

Today as I walk around campus and look at all the buildings that we have I get sad, kind of mad, and even a little embarrassed. Looking around campus I see that we have buildings that are not handicap accessible and the buildings that are handicap accessible might as well not be. This is a subject that hits me very hard because I do have a handicapped father who in my three years at SJC cannot come visit my dorm room or comfortably go to events around campus because even though buildings are accessible to him they may as well not be. It is a struggle to get around SJC. It is not possible to go into Justin if you are in a wheel chair. It is also extremely difficult to go into other dorms, where, yes, they have ramps or the doors are even with the ground, but once you go into the dorms you are faced with flights of stairs. The stairs are

not an issue if you are a disabled student because you are given a first floor room if you need it but if you have disabled parents it is not taken into consideration. Handicap parents should be taken into consideration when we apply for dorms and I know I am not the only student who feels this way. It is not just the dorms that are difficult to get around in, two of our main buildings Halleck and the Science building also are difficult to maneuver around. In order to go in the science building you have to go around back down the ramp, which is difficult to maneuver because of the sharp

turn in the ramp. You then go to the elevator and pray that it isn't out of service that day. I have watched a teacher struggle multiple times with this tricky ramp, and have heard stories of how the elevator has gone out while she was on the third floor. Halleck Center is just as difficult. You have to go around

the back of the building, in the service area. Then you come in through the café kitchen. I understand that SJC is in the middle of many renovations and I applaud the changes that have been made though in the last ten years. SJC has put in doors that automatically open with the push of a button. They have also added ramps to Schietwerman along with regular upkeep for the elevators. They have also added rails to the sidewalks leading up to Halleck Center. There is a handicap accessible apartment that can be requested by students in need. I do not want to downgrade the work that SJC has put in to our campus but I would love to see more accomplished. I would like for anyone to comfortably be able to visit or stay on our campus at all times. I want to make sure that SJC is a place for anyone to attend and I hope that changes continue to happen.



Sacrament of Confession

By James Bertucci
Guest Writer

Some people say practice. Some people say a good book. Some people say an education. Self-improvement is an important topic to all of us. We are always seeking to be the best version of ourselves. If we also believe in God, chances are we desire to get closer to God, too. It would seem then that someone who believes in God would want both to be the best he or she could possibly be and also grow closer to God. I say that the Sacrament of Confession satisfies these two desires. In the Catholic Church, the Sacrament of Confession (or Reconciliation as it is sometimes called) is a time for someone to honestly look at his/her life and see what strengths, weaknesses, faults, and blessings have occurred in one's life. It is a private time with the person, the priest, and God where the person confesses or tells the priest those things which did not go well – faults, sins, ways one hurt one's neighbor, etc (I will use "sin"). After a brief conversation, the priest usually prescribes something to do about the sins such as prayer (maybe the Lord's Prayer – Our Father), doing something nice, or making reparations for a sin committed against a neighbor. If the person is contrite, or truly sorry, and intends to "repent," the person's sins are forgiven by the priest, and by extension God, for it is written, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:23). "But why can't I just confess to God instead of priest?" Humility is a funny thing. Many times in our lives we try to overlook or cover up our problems or faults because we don't want others to

find out. How could they ever live with us if they knew? But indeed, being able to honestly look at our lives and tell others our faults takes great courage and is a humbling action. It is the beginning of self-improvement! No one is perfect, and no one likes people who are full of themselves. Besides, the priest is bound to "the seal of Confession" meaning he cannot reveal to anyone directly or indirectly what he has heard

tell the doctor what is wrong as honest as we can be. Sometimes, the doctor's solution or therapy is challenging. How can a doctor help someone if that person comes in saying he or she is fine? Yes, we could go online and find out how to splint a broken bone or how to sew up a wound, but I would much rather have a doctor operating on me than my own attempts. The same is true for our spiritual health. When we know

words, being challenged makes us a better version of ourselves. And along the way, haven't we been challenged and guided by competent authorities – coaches, teachers, books, internet, friends, other players, etc? In each stage we must admit what went wrong so we can fix it. And yes this involves telling others. It involves admitting that we are not perfect. I am not perfect. And I feel free because I admit and know it. For people who believe in God, being the best version of ourselves involves many things – not only those things of earthly value, but those concerning our salvation. It involves our relationships, our careers, our struggles, our beliefs, our education, and perhaps especially our habits. Repenting from those ways which bring us down and believing and doing those ways which raise us up comes easier in the long run if we have people who can help us along the way. So why not look into Confession as a benefit to your life? At first it is intimidating, especially since we have to come to terms with ourselves. Going through it many times (another sign that I am not perfect), I can say I have a free conscience afterwards, a stronger belief in God, and a desire to do better in the future. It feels liberating. On campus, Confessions take place about 8:30 PM in the Chapel, or if that does not work, contact any priest. If you would like more information about it, you can also contact the priests or brothers here. I am sure they will be a service to you and our Lord Jesus Christ. May our Lord grant you pardon and peace in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



during Confession. Chances are, those that say they can just tell God and not a priest rarely tell God anything about anything, let alone sins. If one cannot admit to another that he is not perfect, how can one possibly be honest with God? When we get a bone broken or a big injury, most likely we go to a hospital or a doctor's office. Why? Because we know we are not experts in the medical field and we do not possess the tools or the knowhow to make ourselves healed. And what do we do in the doctor's office or hospital? We

something is wrong (sin), sometimes the best people to go to for solving the problem are those who have a background in how to solve that problem. Humans grow through challenges. In sports, playing opposing teams and practice make one better at the sport. In video games, getting killed and coming back gives one the opportunity to see what went wrong and how to get better (improve that kill ratio! haha). In debates, having your argument defeated makes you reconsider how you argue and also what you are arguing. In other

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We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph's College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

The Lucky One

By Nicole Thomsen

Opinions Editor

Nicholas Sparks has had some success translating his books to the big screen. His biggest romantic hit was most likely The Notebook. One of his newer movies is based off his book The Lucky One. The Lucky One film, starring Zac Efron and Taylor Schilling, is the story of a man who finds a photograph he thinks is lucky. It saves him time and time again or so he thinks and he decides he is going to track down the woman in the picture. The film is clearly meant for hopeless romantics, if you are into love stories it is as good and soppy as ever. The book on the other hand is an entirely different story. The novel opens with the main character, Logan Thibault, a U.S. Marine who is stationed in Iraq. It's the morning after they've been attacked and Logan notices something gleaming in the rubble; a picture of young blond

woman. He asks around to see if it belongs to anyone but the photo remains unclaimed, so he keeps it. When he returns home he realizes how much the fighting in Iraq has affected him. Deciding it's not

safe for him to stay with his sister and her two young son's, he packs up and heads out on his journey to find the woman in the photograph. As always, the book is far more detailed than the movie. While

the book is still a romance novel, it's has a lot more to do with the journey than the love story. I saw the film before I read the book, so I wasn't disappointed with the amount of detail that was left out

because I didn't realize just how much of it had been cropped. But now that I have read the book I wouldn't call the movie bad, it just could have been much better. If the film existed without the book, I'd say that it went over quite well. Seeing as that's not the case the main point the film was lacking was character detail. The book goes really in depth to give a well rounded back story on each character. The book is written in multiple points of view and I found that to be one of it's strong suits. It allows the reader to get inside the thought of the main characters and instead of the book telling us how to feel about them the reader gets to decide for themselves. Overall, this book is really great for anyone, if are into romance novels I'd highly recommend it. I enjoyed reading it and I hope you do too.



More Than Entertainment: Bisrat Desta

By Kristina Hemmerling
Features Co-Editor

There is a stereotypical image of a male dorm room in college. Unkempt bed, graphic posters, alcohol banners, and messy desks come to mind. The dorm room of Bisrat Desta is a little different. Sure he's got a bed, desk, and images on the wall, but none of them are typical. He makes his bed everyday, even if he has to wait until after classes. His desk is organized, and a weekly "To Do List" rests on the wall. Above his bed he has a flag sporting an image of Jesus Christ, and on his dresser his television is always playing some sports programming or other. His television is literally always on.

When he comes back from class the most recent sports news is waiting for him on his ever-running television. It's there for the updates and even tips on how to do his own show someday. He is so dedicated to sports that he even sleeps with it playing ESPN. Better and quicker sleep accompany

his nights with the television playing. Even when he's at home he leaves the television in the living room on, unless his parents tell him to turn it off to save energy.

Biz moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana from Adis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, when he was nine years old. Back in "the Thope," Biz and his older brother and sister lived in a regular house on the outskirts of the city. One of the only things he can differentiate with his new hometown and his old is that the streets weren't paved there. "They are now though," he says. The other main difference is that real "wilderness" was just outside his yard.

Biz and his neighborhood kids could leave their houses and go into an actual forest. Along with wild expeditions Biz often played soccer in the unpaved streets with his neighbors. Sports have always been a large part of Biz's life. Soccer and running were his first loves, but he now has "love for all sports." Whereas typical Indiana folk enjoy IU, Purdue, the Pacers, the Colts, or maybe the Bears, Biz doesn't seem to have a regional sports preference. The teams he seriously "reps" are Notre Dame, IU Basketball, Philadelphia Eagles, and the Eastern Rockets. Those are some eclectic teams, but it makes sense that he has a variety of tastes since he isn't from here. Sporting a Detroit Tigers winter cap, Biz acknowledges that his hat options don't go along with his team preferences. Although he has "his" teams, he will sport any team's hat "as long as the colors are right." That could just be a style preference, but it also goes along with that fact that he's from another country.

His parents decided to move

their family to allow their three children to get better educations. He learned the majority of his English the summer before he came to America since he didn't learn any in school in Ethiopia. He took an English as a Second Language (ESL) class but that wasn't his only mode of education. Television had a large impact. He watched PBS Kids all summer long and attained quite a bit of knowledge. Shows like Arthur, Reading Rainbow, Bernstein Bears, and Liberty Kids (which sadly is not on Netflix) were what he regularly watched. Although his ESL taught him the language itself, the television shows he watched helped him to put context and meaning behind the words he learned. He's come a long way since then.

Biz came to Saint Joseph's College to run cross-country and track. He is a sophomore Mass Communications and Physical Education major. Hosting his own radio show, writing for the school paper, and taking video production classes are all extracurricular activities that help with his majors but are also activities he enjoys doing. "I write for the Observer to just get comfortable with my writing," he says about his sports articles. His Observer articles are always well written and thoughtful, good qualities to have for his intended career choice. Being a beat writer for a sports team is his ideal, "even if it's just a small time team in Minnesota," but being on the radio doing a sports show is a close second. Since his TV is always on ESPN, or another sports channel, he has a great deal of experience with sports programming. His radio show on campus allows him to become more comfortable with the experi-



Biz reigns from Ethiopia, Africa, which is known for being multilingual and multiethnic. Many scientists believe that Homo Sapiens got their start in Ethiopia.

ence, as did the video production class he took as a freshman. Television and sports have always been in Biz's life just like they have been in just about every person's life here at Saint Joe's. Unlike the stereotypical college student, these two loves have done more than just entertain Biz for years. As a child TV wasn't just something to keep him busy, and sports weren't just something to watch. TV helped him to learn the English language, and sports helped him further his education in college. They have shaped his education, his majors, and even his future career. Biz's friends have seen this connection. "Not only does Biz play sports, he

loves to watch them. He watches all of the tennis and even golf tournaments on TV. He's never played tennis, but he'll watch it on TV. I don't really do that," says junior cross-country team member Corey Dowds. "It's good that he's so interested in all sports like that. I mean, if that's what you like and you can dedicate your life to it that's great. Ideal, really." Biz has finally noticed this connection, too. "Sports and TV have always had major roles in my life. They led me to where I am and my career choices, too."



Biz is a proud member of the SJC Cross Country and Track teams. (Photo Courtesy Father Tim)

Scott Pilgrim

By Hannah Ramey
Features Writer

With the lovely weather as disgustingly temperamental as it has been recently, I've come to the conclusion that the best way to pass my time is tucked safely inside, amongst the company of blankets and Dr. Pepper, watching some of the best (and worst) movies I can get my hands on. Most recently, those have included the Pirates of the Caribbean series, Killer Klowns from Outer Space, and The Princess and the Frog. My favorite, though, out of all I have watched, is an adorably hilarious movie based on a comic book series by Brian Lee O'Malley. Scott Pilgrim vs. The World is an amazing movie, for a plethora of reasons, but these are the ones I think are most important.

First off, while the movie doesn't hold one hundred percent true to the comic books, it does manage to catch their spirit. It takes all of what makes the Scott Pilgrim comics work, and puts

it in movie form. It's absolutely wonderful. In the event that you have no clue what Scott Pilgrim is about, let me give you a super-fast summary. Scott Pilgrim sees a girl named Ramona, and is instantly enamored with her. He creeps on her as much as possible, and somehow gets her to become as interested in him as he is in her. He then learns that in order to date her, he must defeat her seven evil exes. This daunting and hilarious task plays out during the 112 minute film, leaving audience members with a ton of laughs.

Amazing details were put into this movie. Countless references were made to everything from Naruto to Harry Potter to Tetris. In addition to the references, some obvious and some so small they are overlooked by most people, the director of this movie had a special project for its duration. During every scene where Scott battles an evil ex (numbered one through seven), a number corresponding to that specific ex appears all over the place

in incredibly subtle ways. Scott himself is referred to as Zero, and is seen many times throughout the film drinking Coke Zero, and wearing clothing emblazoned with that number. Exes five and six, two Japanese twins, have an

amp that goes to 11 (both five and six added together, as well as a reference to Spinal Tap). Quirky, videogame-esque words and phrases pop up all over the place, enhancing the overall feel of the movie.

Hands down, Scott Pilgrim vs. the World is one of my favorite movies, and I think anyone who gives it a chance will more than likely enjoy it. For me, this "epic of epic epicness" is most definitely worth a watch!



Michael Cera as Scott Pilgrim mixes awkward band member with mortal-combat-like melee master in this action flick.

FIGHT CLUB

By Connor Ring
Guest Writer

"The first rule of Fight Club is: you do not talk about Fight Club. The second rule of Fight Club is: you do NOT talk about Fight Club." By writing this, I am breaking the first and second rule of Fight Club, a movie that I have only recently been able to see with my own eyes. Before I watched it, I was given a silly remark about Fight Club's premise whenever I asked about it. People would tell me the first rule and then leave it at that, which is why I avoided the movie so much. If the movie is surrounded by mystery and the joke is to keep people out of it, I tend to avoid those movies because I feel like it is just a clever way to

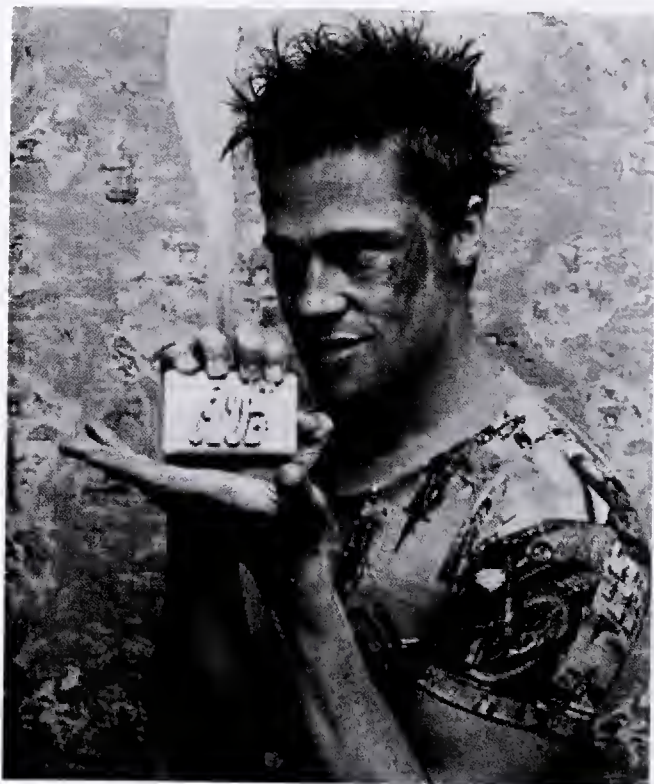
make me watch a terrible movie. However, this movie blew away my impressions, providing a cast of characters and a storyline that fit so well together that it makes mind-bending movies like Inception and Shutter Island look like dirt in comparison. Fight Club reinvented what "mind-bending" truly means in a movie, and it is safe to assume that it is an inspiration to all movies of the same caliber.

First, let us dig into the movie's plotline. I won't ruin the majority of the movie, but instead provide the background of it to preserve its many twists and turns. An insomniac office worker, who narrates the movie in quite a hysterical fashion, is tired of his daily life and is actively looking to change it. However,

when he meets a soap salesman by the name of Tyler Durdan, the two create an underground fight club that becomes much more. The rest of the story follows the escapades of these two characters, along with the lowly Marla Singer, and with each new step forward, the plot seems to bring you to the final scene so fluently that you almost need to see the movie twice in order to see everything that it has to offer.

The characters are where this film truly shines, as each actor takes their role to its fullest potential. Edward Norton plays the weak and feeble-minded narrator of the movie, and builds a sense of helplessness that is bound to make any man sympathize for him. Brad Pitt steals the show as Tyler Durdan, acting as the bigshot who doesn't care about anything except his next step forward. This dynamic duo combines together to drive the story to a conclusion that not only satisfies the viewer, but can almost be believable, considering the events that lead to it. Helena Carter also provides for some great entertainment, as her constant visits and witty humor seems to appeal to most viewers. It is hard to think of a movie cast that can compete with the ingenious characters of Fight Club.

In short, Fight Club is a must-see movie, with a mind-bending storyline and phenomenal cast that blend together to create one of the best movies to be released in the past two decades. I still don't understand why I never gave this movie a chance before, but I can say now that it is worth the time and effort to watch it. Now if you will excuse me, I have broken the rules quite enough.



"The First Rule about Fight Club is that you write reviews about Fight Club years and years afterwards!"

Ice Nine Kills

By Tabitha Blaisdell
Features Writer

Ice Nine Kills (I.N.K) is a hardcore metal band from Boston, Massachusetts. Their band name was inspired by the fictional weapon of destruction "ice-nine" from the novel Cat's Cradle. Some of their musical influences include Underoath, Senses Fail and Norma Jean. For the most part this band isn't extremely well known. However, they are doing exceedingly well and have performed at many popular music festivals such as Warped Tour and The All-Stars Tour. I have watched them develop over the years as their music progresses and their fan base rapidly expands.

So let me give you a little background on the band I have come to know over the past five years. Ice Nine Kills formed around 2006. To date, they have released two full length albums and three E.P.s. I've been listening to them since their primeval days when they began promoting themselves on Myspace Music. They are one of the very first bands that had a major influence on my interest in the metal/hardcore genre of music. I ordinarily avoided listening to anything that sounded too rough or included any vocal screaming, but I.N.K. opened a whole new door for me when I began listening to them in 2007. The first songs I heard from them were off their earliest E.P. entitled "The Burning". The two songs that appealed to me most at the time were "The Greatest Story Ever Told" and "Build Your Own Disaster". Their sound had me really entranced by the long and distinctive guitar riffs and the raw and aggressive emotion they rendered into each song.

The band has made a transition following their earlier releases. They started off with a softer sound that consisted of more acoustic melodies which has now

elevated to heavier vocals and more instrumental breakdowns. Although it's different from how they began, I feel like they aren't necessarily changing but instead they are evolving. In my opinion, Ice Nine Kills is definitely at their highest point right now. In May of 2012, they captured the attention of many when they did a rendition of the popular song "Someone Like You" formally known by British singer, Adele. They have also recently released their third self produced E.P. The Predator which debuted at No. 9 on the Billboard Heatseekers chart and at No. 15 on the iTunes rock chart.

Apart from their unique sound, I also adore I.N.K. because of their profound originality and their dedication to themselves and their fans. Since I've been a fan, they've always stayed true to themselves. For most of their existence they've been a self-produced band that has created and promoted their own music from the get-go. They haven't let any record label corrupt or manipulate their sound in order to mold them into something that would be more appealing to a mainstream crowd.

As a result of being a self-produced band who is funded partially by their own fans, I.N.K. makes sure to acknowledge their fans as much as possible. They give back and connect with their fan base by communicating with them and giving away a ton of free merchandise and concert tickets via their Facebook. I can proudly say I.N.K. is one of my all time favorite bands. They have maintained individuality and continue to portray it throughout the production of their sound, lyrics and music videos. If you want to be astounded by an impressive metal band which is not comparable to many others, Ice Nine Kills is definitely worth listening to.

Men's Basketball Wraps Up Season

By Bisrat Desta
Sports Staff Writer

The Saint Joseph's College men's basketball team ended their season fighting till the last whistle blew, just like they have done all season. Unfortunately they did not leave Indianapolis with a win

Battling against the Greyhounds, (one of the best teams in the conference,) seemed to be a tough task for the Pumas as they fell 99-71. It has been a rough season for SJC as their record stands at 6-19 after the loss to the Hounds.

The same problems they have been having all season also caught up with them in this game against Indianapolis. Committing too many turnovers and not converting from the charity stripe will usually lose any team a game, which exactly is what happened to the Pumas. Falling behind big in the early minutes the Pumas did not come out with enough energy to match up with the Greyhounds. The first half performance (arguably one of the worst halves of the season for the Pumas,) led them to fall behind 58-26. To show the fighting spirit they have had all season, they fought hard to make it a game, but did not have enough as they eventually fell short.

"We dug ourselves in a big hole that we couldn't climb out of," said sophomore Samuel Francis.

Senior Dayvon Sloan, who



has had a bright career at Saint Joseph's, once again led his team in scoring. His fellow senior teammate Damon Ellison also had another decent outing as he was second in scoring. Those two players have been a bright spot for SJC this year as they showed their scoring prowess throughout the season. Sloan made history this year by eclipsing the 1,000-point mark in his career, and should be getting votes to be All-Conference. The same goes for Ellison who has been outstanding since transferring to SJC last year.

Even though the Pumas did

*Junior D.J. Martinez slams the ball down against Lewis.
Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.*

not accomplish what they set out to do at the beginning of the season, they had to overcome some obstacles. Having a roster full of underclassmen did not help them any. Also, graduating four seniors from this year's team will make next season seem to be even more of a challenging season than this past one. With that being said, there should be excitement for the future of men's basketball here at Saint Joseph's as we have a young

and upcoming underclassmen roster. Sophomores Ryan Rebholz and Corey Clifton gained some meaningful experience this season that will carry over into next year.

The men's team ended their season 6-19, going 4-14 in conference. The graduating seniors will be missed next season, but hopefully the returning underclassmen and incoming freshman can turn next season into a winning one.

Pumas Shut-Out Dragons

By Ken Badylak,
Sports Information Director

Behind a strong pitching performance by Jordan Peterson, the Saint Joseph's College baseball team shut-out Tiffin University 2-0 on Saturday afternoon to earn its first win of the 2013 campaign. Shortstop Craig Austgen battled through the flurries to make nine assists on the slick turf surface.

Peterson opened the top of the first with two of his three strikeouts on the afternoon. The Pumas (1-2) played solid defense on the afternoon as neither team worked deep into counts. Tiffin's Eric Kleppler matched Peterson in putting-up five zeros on the scoreboard.

SJC ended a two out rally by the Dragons (0-5) in the top of the sixth by stranding two runners on the base paths. After Matt Skrzypiec and Austgen walked

to lead off the bottom half of the inning, Charlie Dennehey placed a slow rolling bunt down the first base line. The throw skidded under the glove at first as Skrzypiec rounded third to score the game's first run.

The Tiffin offense was still aggressive, swinging early in counts as Peterson got out of the seventh and eighth with a total of 10 pitches. Jake Roberts provided an insurance run in the bottom of the eighth with a RBI triple that scored Dennehey.

Peterson completed the shutout with a quick ninth inning. On the day the tall right hander allowed just four hits while striking-out three. Roberts finished the day one for three with a triple and RBI.

The Pumas Baseball team will continue honing their skills over the coming week before their annual spring break trip to Florida, where they'll test their skills against some of the best teams in college baseball in preparation for conference play.

Jordan Peterson threw 9 innings of shut-out baseball against the Tiffin Dragons for his first win of the season, allowing only 4 hits and giving up only one free runner, who was hit by a pitch.

Photos courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.



Tennis Opens Season

By Katie Guernsey
Sports Editor

Puma tennis officially opened their season up this past Saturday, March 2nd against Indiana Tech.

The men's team, with a win already under their belt this season against Prairie State, played well. They went up 2-1 after doubles play, their only loss coming with a tough match at 1 doubles, where juniors Seth Arthur and Joseph Bomben lost in a hard-fought tiebreaker.

The Pumas brought their A game in singles competition, coming out strong to end up winning 7-2. Despite this seemingly big win, it was a hard fought match. Sophomore Adam Meeker closed out the seventh win after splitting sets then winning the tie-breaker 10-5.

The men currently hold a record of 5-1, their only loss coming from the Fall season in a tough match against Goshen College. They will play Purdue-Calumet on March 8.

"Our men's team had the advantage of playing a match last week. We were able to start strong in doubles and carry that momentum over into the singles matches. All 7 of the men posted apoint for us. It was a true team effort. Indiana Tech has a very strong men's program featuring an entire line up of international

Upcoming Games

March 8th

Men's Tennis vs.
Purdue-Calumet
5:00 p.m.

March 9th

Softball vs. Rockhurst
University, DH
12:00 p.m.

Men's and women's
tennis Spring Break trip,
Hilton Head, SC

March 10th

Softball vs. William Jewell
College, DH
12:00 p.m.

Baseball Spring
Break Trip,
Winter Haven, FL

March 12th

Softball Spring
Break Trip,
Clermont, FL

March 16th

Track at J. Owen
Hunstman Relays

Men's and Women's
Golf at UIS Spring Classic
in Whitmoor C.C.,
Charles, MO

Pumas Successful at GLVC Championships

By JJ Miller
Sports Editor

For the Pumas, the GLVC Championships were a bittersweet time this season. While the Pumas had wished to return with better than 7th and 8th place finishes as teams, the teams also brought

back two individual champions, senior Joe Took and junior Mike Fauser, and a third GLVC All-Conference team member, sophomore Sam Nirva. Took and Fauser won the triple jump and 800 meter run, respectively, while Nirva was second in the pentathlon and third in the 60

meter hurdles.

On the women's side, Nirva led the team, bringing in 14 of Saint Joe's 32.5 points. She fell short of claiming the title in the Pentathlon by a mere 2 points after 5 events, having led through the first 4. She also claimed third in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 8.84 seconds, good for a personal best and an NCAA provisional mark. The Pumas picked up an additional six points from freshman Heather Monk in the shot put, with her throw of 12.54 meters claiming her a third-place finish. Sophomore Danielle Perkins and senior Erica Blythe

finished fourth and fifth in the 60 meter dash, finishing in 8.05 and 8.10 seconds respectively, to contribute a further 8.5 points for the team.

For the men, Fauser and Took contributed 10 individual points apiece, out of the 42 total team points earned by the Pumas. Fauser surpassed his competition in the 800 meter run by nearly two seconds as his time of 1:54.68 was his best of the season. Took produced a career best mark of 47 feet, 2.5 inches in the triple jump to take first place. Both Fauser and Took earn First Team All-Conference honors for their performances. Freshman CJ Elkum brought in 8 points with his fourth place finish in the high jump, with a mark of 6' 4", and sixth in the triple jump, with a season-best mark of 43' 2.5". Fellow freshman Kevin Bauers contributed with his sixth-place finish in the shot put, with his throw of 46' 1.25". Sophomore Logan Barrett and

Junior Richard Kaht contributed a pair of seventh-place finishes in the 1600 meter and 3000 meter runs, respectively. Barrett finished with a time of 4:20.78, while Kaht finished the 3000 meter run in 8:37.95. Rounding out the scoring for the Pumas was freshman Brian Murr, who pulled off an eighth-place finish in a tough field of the 200 meter dash, with his time of 23.03 earning him eighth place.

Halfway through the semester and halfway through the Track and Field season, the Pumas have seen promise out of both returners and new faces alike. With a strong freshman class supporting the experienced juniors and seniors, the Pumas will look to improve over the next two months.

The Pumas will be out of action until the end of March, when outdoor season starts right here at Saint Joseph's College, on the Michael J. Vallone Track and Field Complex, on March 26th for the Gene and Rose Edmonds Invitational.



Sophomore Logan Barrett speeds around the track during the 1600 meter run, an eight-lap event on University of Indianapolis's 200 meter indoor track. Barrett was 7th for the Pumas, while also contributing to an 8th place finish in the Distance Medley Relay. Photo courtesy of editor Kristina Hemmerling.

Lady Pumas End Season

By Reid Brazel
Sports Staff Writer

The women's basketball team played their final game Saturday at University of Indianapolis after facing Lewis University here at Richard F. Scharp Memorial Fieldhouse. Last Saturday, the Pumas fell to the Lewis University Flyers after a strong opening. Early in the game our girls were simply outplaying Lewis, showing great athleticism.

Tonisha Sanders set the tempo for the first half by drilling a 3 point shot which was followed up by Courtney Kvechhoff with a 2 point FG; Tityana Miller didn't take long to drill another 3 pt shot which left the Pumas with an impressive opener against the Flyers with a 8-2 lead in the first 5 minutes. Tityana Miller and Tonisha Sanders both had great defensive steals that led to points early, and continued to score throughout the first half. However, the Flyers caught

some wind in their sails halfway through the first half, and answered back ending the half with a score of 30-28 with our girls in the lead. In the second half the Flyers came out strong defensively, holding our girls to shooting 22% from 2 and 3 pt range; while nailing 43% of their shots from 2 pt and 44% from 3pt range. Both teams shot well from the free throw line in the second half, with the Flyers nailing 90% of their shots leading to 10 points and our Pumas nailing 80% leading to 16. Sadly, the second half comeback was too much, and the Lady Pumas dropped the game 64-68.

The following Saturday, the Lady Pumas traveled to University of Indianapolis to face the Greyhounds. Our girls struggled early as Indianapolis scored 10 unanswered points at the start of the game. After 4 minutes senior Tonisha Sanders made a shot which put the Pumas on the board.

By the 12 minute mark it looked like our girls may have caught some wind closing Indianapolis's lead to eight; however Indianapolis answered back and strengthened their lead. Freshman Courtney Kvachkoff lead the Pumas with nine points in the first half while sophomore Kiki Wilson added seven points and two assists to the Pumas' offense. Kvachkoff led the Pumas in rebounds with six of the teams thirteen in the half. The Pumas pulled off five steals in the first half and forced Indianapolis's hand with seven turnovers altogether. The Greyhounds came out strong in the second half with 14 unanswered points, and continued to score throughout the half; the lead was too much for the Lady Pumas to overcome. The Greyhounds won the game with the final score of 95-54.

The season is now over for the girls who are going to get some well needed rest. They finished 1-25 overall winning only one



non-conference game. They will prepare for next year and we here at the Observer will be very happy to watch more games from the Pumas.

Junior guard Victoria Wolfe looks to feed the ball into the post during the Lady Pumas final home game. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S

Puma Athlete Profile: Bobby Anderson

By: Brendon Varallo
Sports Staff Writer

Bobby Anderson is a senior, majoring in Business Administration and minoring in Communications. He is from Lake Village, Indiana.

If you could travel back in time and give yourself one piece of advice, what would it be?

"I would tell myself to always work out legs! Not just the

upper body. Friends don't let friends skip leg day."

If the count is 3-0, are you swinging away or taking?

"In a 3-0 count I would love to be swinging for a homerun because a fastball is coming considering I'm not a big fan of the curveball, but Coach O'Dette would not be too happy if the ball didn't go 420 ft. I would have to take that pitch in a 3-0 count."

If a zombie apocalypse were to happen tomorrow, what would be the first thing you would do?

"I am going to my house where I have an arsenal of guns. I'm throwing 2 pistols around my hips, one at my ankle, a shotgun on my back, and the M16 is in my hands at all times. Then I'm going to prop my turret machine gun up on the roof and go to town on some zombies and see how many rounds I can go."

Why do baseball players like sunflower seeds so much?

"Baseball players love sunflower seeds so much because they beat peanuts any day of the week."

Do you think watching "Man vs. Wild" will actually help someone survive in the wild?

"Yes I do. I love watching that show. After watching that show I believe I can survive in any environment copying what he does in certain situations. I just hope I can remember."

Know someone that deserves the spotlight? Let us know! E-mail their name and sport to kgt8533@saintjoe.edu or fnt8451@saintjoe.edu.



Photo by Steve Bates, WCS Photography

**Fountain Stone
Theaters**

Movies for February 7th

(219) 866-2222
fountainstonetheaters.com

Identity Thief (R)
4:15, 6:15

**Jack the Giant Slayer
(PG13)**
4:10

**Jack the Giant Slayer 3D
(PG13)**
6:10

Safe Haven (PG13)
4:15, 6:20

Snitch (PG13)
4:10, 6:15

**The Last Exorcism Part II
(PG13)**
4:20, 6:30

Coming Soon:
*The Host (PG13), Oz the
Great and Powerful (PG), The
Croods (PG)*

The Ritz Cinema

Movie for
February 8th-14th

(219) 866-0086
www.ritzcinema.net

All movies begin at 7:00 M-F
Matinees every day 2:00

Lincoln (PG13)

Kindhearted Kat and Giddy Gloria Give Advice

Have questions for Giddy Gloria and Kindhearted Kat? E-mail them to rpt8460@saintjoe.edu!

Dear Kindhearted Kat and Giddy Gloria,

I have always been shy around people. How can I overcome this?
Sincerely,
Shy

Dear Shy,

Well you can start by trying to spend more time with your roommate, and maybe your roommate's friends. Try joining a club or talking more with someone that sits next to you in class every day. Just put yourself out there and meeting new friends will happen before you know it!

I was in a class all first semester and never really talked with two of the people I sat next to, and one day we just started talking. Now I'm great friends with both of them, and my roommate is too! So just have

fun, be yourself, and get out and try something new! The rest will happen naturally. Good luck!
Sincerely,
Kindhearted Kat

Dear Kindhearted Kat and Giddy Gloria,

I did terrible my first semester here, how do I get my grades up?
Sincerely,
Failing

Dear Failing,

Well, I would start by asking yourself how much you studied instead of partying or going out and having fun? Remember, college is a new experience and you're meant to have fun, but your first priority should be school. Next, I would try setting up more of your free time and trying to direct it toward more study time. That may mean giving up going out on Friday night, or a movie

night here and there, but once your homework and studying are done, then you can go out.

You can also try getting a tutor. We have tutors on campus in the Learning Resource Center located in the back of the library. Don't worry about cost, they are free! Utilize what resources you have offered to you. Lastly, go to your professors and talk to him or her, they will help you. Good luck!
Sincerely,
Kindhearted Kat

Dear Kindhearted Kat and Giddy Gloria,

What do I do if I completely disagree with my Core I teacher on everything? Won't I get a bad grade if I speak up?
Sincerely,
Voiceless

Dear Voiceless,

If your disagreements are in your discussion class, the point of the class is to discuss—not keep your thoughts to yourself. Keeping your thoughts to yourself should lower your grade, not the other way around. It's called a discussion class and not another lecture class for a reason.

If you disagree with the way your Core teacher teaches, then there may be a slight problem. I would suggest having a one-on-one with your teacher. You could ask your specific questions outside of class to avoid embarrassing him or her, or yourself, depending on the question/statement or reaction. If you keep disagreeing with your teacher, then just sign up for a new Core teacher in the fall semester.
Sincerely,
Giddy Gloria

Over Heard

*Heard something crazy
or scandalous in the
cafeteria or around
campus?
E-mail rpt8460 with
your anonymous sub-
mission! You may see
it in the next issue.*

"Maybe I aspire to be a people."

"God, I hate you so much I can't wait to wipe your blood off my spikes."

"The yogurt is stuck in my ovaries."

"The cheese became one with my tooth."

"She should just pull out her boobs, take a picture, and put it on twitter. They could call it titter!"

This Week's Creative Stuff

from Saint Joseph's very own Creative Writers and Artistis

Attention Creative Writers! Do you write poetry? Draw cartoons? This section is specifically FOR YOU! If you have something you'd like published in the paper, e-mail it to rpt8460!

THE GHOST OF MOLLY
PRINGLE
Ryan Pelsey

Molly Pringle, it was said,
lay naked in the deacon's bed.
The gossip spread through
Christendom;
something wicked this way comes.

"Tis not my fault," the deacon
cried,
"th' slut's a witch," the deacon lied,
"and to her spell I did succumb!"
Something wicked this way
comes.

Judges, Elders, all agreed,
"A guilty verdict do we need."
Falsely tried and falsely hung,
something wicked this way comes.

The deacon then, alone in bed,

had fearsome visions in his head.
Too late to mend, the deed was done,
something wicked this way comes.

Now listen children, hear my tale,
'bout a young girl locked in jail.
Rising on the scaffold steps,
a dreadful curse spat from her lips.
"I'll have your life!" the lass did
swear,
standing on the scaffold stair.
"I'll have your goddamned life!"
swore she,
"ere the full moon rise, you'll see!"

A few days passed, they found him
dead,
just as Molly Pringle said.
Witnesses we all respect,
did say a rope was 'round his neck
But none could say where it came
from,
something wicked this way comes.

The Weekly How To

By Mike Sosnowski

How To Meet a Deadline

I know for a fact that you all have to deal with deadlines, especially those of you with writing-heavy majors (like my own). I also know a lot of you have trouble meeting said deadlines. Well, have no fear, because I happen to be an expert on meeting deadlines.

First things first. Figure out a timetable. This means know when something is due. Triple check this time. YOU MUST KNOW THE CORRECT TIME. If you mess this up, there is no hope.

The next thing to do is to waste as much time as possible before your deadline. The more relaxed you are, the clearer you think when it comes to crunch time. Also, take some of this time to prep for crunch time. Make sure you go out and buy some some snacks, and get a nice place to work ready.

When your deadline is looming, begin to panic. Yes, being calm was good earlier, but now it's bad. What you need now in order to properly meet your deadline is pure and unadulterated panic. But here's the key: don't start working. You have to let the panic build and the bubble inside you until the thought of not working makes you physically sick. Only then will you be fully prepared to start the project/paper/other type of assignment.

Now the time has come to write. Put down your name and the date and get to work on that intro. Once you have the intro down, take a break for a bit. You've worked hard. You really deserve it!

Of course it's not a real break. This is a writer's block break. That means there is only one thing you can do right now: vigorously apply your head to the wall.

If you manage to knock some sense into yourself, you can finish up a good paper. If not, just write whatever comes to mind and hope for the best. When someone asks how it went, just smile and nod.